From: John
To: mdove@fec.gov
Subject: As a small contributor
Date: 12/10/2007 03:20 PM

I must urge you to make an exemption for ActBlue (and similar entities, of course) in public financing. The law in question was written well before the advent of the internet era, and was never intended to cover such transparent and publicly-accountable institutions as ActBlue. To rule that contributions given through entities such as ActBlue are ineligible for public financing would be to twist the letter of the law to pervert its spirit. Further, it would have quite definitely pernicious practical effects. I am a repeated small donor, both in this cycle and in the two before it, and I can attest that I do the great majority of my donating through ActBlue. I have found it to be an extremely convenient and valuable service, and it is in all honesty not an exaggeration to say that at least a certain amount of my political participation would not have happened without it. To be told that my contributions are somehow "dirty" and ineligible for public financing because of an obsolescent technicality would be, to say the least, discouraging. I suspect many other members of my age cohort (young college student), who increasingly tend to handle affairs through the internet, would find it similarly so. In order to draw more people into the political process and make the voice of ordinary people count for more (the original, and deeply worthy, intent of public financing) it is essential to defend the legitimacy of institutions such as ActBlue, not to assault it.

Sincerely,
John Fay Jr.

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"To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public." - Theodore Roosevelt
"The arc of history is long, but it bends toward justice." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

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